State Senator · Deb 12/5 12/5



For the Constituents of the 26th District

Dear Friend,

During the first two months of 2008, Governor Granholm presented her State of the State address and announced her 2008-09 budget proposal. Both events were positive and encouraging. The State of the State message emphasized jobs, education, health care and safety. It was followed by a proposed budget that will support those efforts—a budget that we have already begun to take up in the Legislature. In fact, the Senate has already passed half of the budget bills and are now working on the rest.

In her speech, the Governor unveiled a new vision for Michigan, identifying the building blocks that will be the foundation of our future while introducing initiatives that can have an economic impact now and down the road. She called for unprecedented bipartisanship and cooperation to move Michigan forward, and it is already starting to bear fruit in the Capitol.

We are all working together to create jobs, stimulate our economy and ensure stability and security so that Michigan families and businesses can thrive. We have already passed bill packages that will help Michigan residents avoid home foreclosure, encourage the film industry to bring millions of dollars and thousands of jobs here, and financially protect the families of our veterans.

As we move into spring, hope springs eternal. A better Michigan and a brighter future are on the horizon, and I am doing everything I can to get us closer to those goals. I hope you will continue to share your ideas and input to help me do the best job possible of representing our community. It continues to be my honor and privilege to serve as your State Senator.

Sincerely,

Deb Cherry
State Senator • District 26

Governor Granholm, Senator Cherry Announce \$6.2 Million in Road Funding for District

During the final week of February, Governor Granholm and Senator Cherry announced that Genesee and Oakland County would receive \$6.2 million in road project funding as part of the Governor's 2008 Economic Stimulus Package.

Oakland County will receive \$5.9 million for freeway signing on I-75 to improve traffic and safety. Genesee County is getting \$300,000 to add a center left turn lane on M-15 at Kipp Road in Goodrich to increase traffic flow and limit the risk of accidents.

The need to put people to work right now led to these projects being moved up from 2009 to this summer.

The Governor's Road Project Stimulus Package includes \$150 million in building projects for necessary roads and bridges. The package also will create 2,100 additional jobs over the next two construction seasons—with better roads as the result of the investment. The package is made possible by refinancing existing debt and bonding to take advantage of lower interest rates.

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Clip and Save

Governor Oullines Michigan's Fulure in State of State Speech

n her 2008 State of the State speech, Governor Granholm said that Michigan's tough times will require swift action and relentless focus on four essential things: A job for every worker; affordable health care for every family; safe places to live and work for all of us; and a quality education for our citizens, kids and adults. She remains dedicated to making Michigan one of the best places to live, learn and earn, not just for ourselves, but for our children and grandchildren, too.

There's a critical link between education and the economy. We not only want to prepare our kids for the future, but ensure that there's a bright future waiting for them right here.

In her speech, the Governor discussed a goal to double the number of college graduates to give Michigan the best-educated workforce in the nation, and the need to revamp our education system from preschool to grad school to on-the-job training to do so.

underscored the importance of existing education programs like the \$4,000 Michigan Promise Scholarship, a bill sponsored by Senator Cherry. It gives every

Governor Granholm

child the opportunity to attend college. She called for increased investment in K-12 schools and innovative initiatives from top to bottom, asking all Michigan school districts to begin offering full day kindergarten and urging the Legislature to pass bills to raise the dropout age to 18. The new budget will also establish a 21st Century Schools Fund to replace large impersonal high schools that fail with smaller, more relevant schools that use firm discipline and strong personal relationships to better prepare our children for the jobs of tomorrow.

We now have a record number of high school students in Michigan taking a college entrance exam, and a record number are eligible for our \$4,000 Michigan Promise scholarship. This year, our state universities are reporting unprecedented enrollment.

Building on the success of her 21st Century Jobs Fund, the Governor also discussed exploring all avenues for job creation and growth, from alternative energy to the film industry. She outlined the Michigan Job Creation Tax Credit, a one-time offer for businesses in the 50 fastest-growing industries in

the country.

Governor Granholm also announced the creation of the Michigan Invests! Fund that will put Michigan money to work building Michigan's economic future and will give high-growth companies the investment capital they need if they grow right here. Michigan will now be in the top three states in the nation for making investment capital available to successful entrepreneurs who create jobs here.

But there was one sector in particular that the Governor said "has blockbuster potential" for Michigan: alternative energy. Because of the need to reduce global warming and end our dependence on expensive foreign oil, the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries will create millions of good paying jobs. Michigan has all the unique resources to offer: The wind to churn turbines: the water currents that can be turned into electric currents; the wood waste from the paper industry to produce the next generation of biofuels; and a highly-skilled workforce that can do it all.

By strengthening our education system, we're strengthening the workforce of the future. By harnessing our natural resources, we're harnessing our economic and industrial potential. And by changing our state of mind, we can change and better the direction of our state and create a brighter future for us all.

Senator Cherry Works to Protect College Students from Housing Fire Hazards

Senator Cherry introduced legislation in February to help protect Michigan students from potential fire hazards in the dormitories on college and university campuses across Michigan. The bill, SB 1090, will require the State Fire Marshal to develop rules and establish an inspection system for dormitories in colleges and universities.

"This legislation is a tremendous leap forward for the safety and protection of our students at universities across the state and will help ease the minds of parents whose children are away at school," said State Fire Marshal Andy Neumann.

Currently, fire safety regulations pertaining to educational institutions are mostly regarding K-12 facilities. This bill expands upon the need to focus on institutions of higher education, by addressing standards used in living quarters, where students potentially remain the most vulnerable. The new inspection system will prioritize targets to focus on deficiencies identified in previous reports and the need for follow up.

Senator Cherry, Reform Groups Call for Action on Public Financing for State Supreme Court

Cherry was joined by
Senators John Gleason (D-Flushing)
and Gretchen Whitmer (D-East
Lansing) and advocates from the
Michigan Campaign Finance
Network, the League of Women
Voters and the Michigan
Independent Supreme Court
Campaign to call for action on
her legislation, Senate Bill 128, to
establish public financing for
Michigan Supreme Court
campaigns.

Under SB 128, Michigan Supreme Court candidates would be required to raise \$50,000 to show that they are serious and have a real base of support, but the money could only come in amounts less than \$500. Once they qualify, candidates would receive in public funds the average amount raised by candidates in the two previous election cycles.

Since 2000, spending for the state's Supreme Court campaigns has exceeded \$23 million. The candidates' campaign committees raised \$10.5 million, while political action committees and the political parties, which can accept unlimited contributions, spent another \$2.3 million for independent expenditures. Ten million dollars more was spent for candidate-focused "Issue"

advertising that praised or disparaged candidates by name, and because those advertisements did not explicitly reference voting or an election, there is no requirement to report financing of those ads.

Senator Cherry introduced legislation to reform campaign financing for the Supreme Court during her first Senate term in 2006, and again last January as her second term was underway. The bill was assigned to the Senate Committee on Campaign and Election Oversight on January 31, 2007, where it has yet to receive a hearing.

Join Senator Cherry for Hunter Safety Program

See Flyer on Back Page for More Information

Although Michigan's deer hunting season is still months away, it is time again for Senator Cherry's 12th Annual Hunter Safety Program, co-hosted by the GLS Building and Construction Trades.

Hunting is not just important to Michigan's economy and the livelihood of many Michigan businesses and communities. It is also a great Michigan tradition and an activity in which all family members can participate and enjoy. Becoming a hunter is also a serious responsibility. So that families can enjoy hunting safely, Michigan has rules that all hunters must follow.

The Cherry Hunter Safety
Program will help hunters meet
the requirements established by
the Michigan Department of
Natural Resources. State law
requires that any hunter born after
January 1, 1960 must take a hunter
safety class, and are required to

have a Michigan Hunter Safety
Certificate or a previous hunting
license in order to purchase any
Michigan hunting license. When
participants complete the classes
offered through this program,
which are taught by certified
Department of Natural Resources
instructors, they will receive the
hunter safety certificate needed for
a license. Senator Cherry looks
forward to meeting and talking
with all of you at the range!

Yours for the Asking • Publications Available

Please check the appropriate box(es) below, fill in your name and address in the space provided and return this entire coupon to: State Senator Deb Cherry • P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing, MI • 48909-7536 or you may email your request to sendcherry@senate.mi.gov.

- Changes and Choices: Legal Rights of Senior Adults
 - Highlights senior legal issues pertaining to disability and consent, age discrimination, tax benefits, pension rights, consumer protection, legal resources, and wills and estate planning.
- ☐ Child Safety Coloring Book
 For parents and early elementary-age children.
- ☐ A Citizen's Guide to State Government Information about the state legislature and elected public officials at state and federal levels of government.
- □ Consumer Protection Resource Guide Everything you need to know about consumer rights and Michigan law: how to protect yourself from consumer fraud and how to take legal action.
- **□** 2008 State Map

- Michigan's Recycling Coloring and Activity Book
 - For elementary-age children.
- □ Planning for Your Peace of Mind: A
 Guide to Medical and Legal Decisions
 Information about making a will and
 designating medical care preference in case
 of incapacity. It contains forms for organ
 donation, the Michigan Statutory Will, and
 the Durable Power of Attorney for Health
 Care, as well as a personal records form to
 allow family to locate important legal and
- personal documents.Services for Seniors: Laws and Programs for Senior Adults

Describes state programs and services related to tax credits and additional taxation issues, Medicare and Medicaid, nursing homes and

- other long-term care options, consumer protection, housing, transportation, employment, and senior discount programs.
- ☐ Tenants and Landlords: A Practical Guide
- ☐ Veterans Benefits and Services: For Michigan Veterans Who Served In The Military

Information about obtaining veterans benefits and services available through federal, state, and local agencies.

☐ Your Child: A Parent's Guide to Health and Safety

Advice on day care providers, a chart for recording immunizations and topics which include how to choose a car seat, how to report child abuse, and how one qualifies for federal child care tax credits.

Name	Address		
City	, MI Zip Code	Phone ()



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